**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**:

1. (*Currently amended*) Process for management of a digital storage unit [[(2)]] divided into sectors, especially in view of its backup, ~~characterized by the fact that it comprises the stages that consist in~~ comprising:

[[-]] creating a first table (M1), each element of which corresponds to one sector of the storage unit;

[[-]] initializing said first table;

[[-]] during a first modification of a sector after said initialization, modifying the element of the first table corresponding to this sector;

[[-]] not modifying an element of the first table during a modification of the sector that corresponds to it if the element has already been modified; and

[[-]] reinitializing said first table during the occurrence of a first predetermined event.

2. (*Original*) Process according to claim **1**, wherein the creation and initialization of said first table takes place during the formatting of the storage unit.

3. (*Currently amended*) Process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~and 2~~, wherein reinitialization of said first table takes place during a complete backup of the storage unit.

4. (*Currently amended*) Process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~and 2~~, wherein reinitialization of said first table takes place during an incremental backup of the storage unit.

5. (*Currently amended*) Process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 4~~, comprising the stage consisting in creating and keeping a copy (T1) of said first table, and in reinitializing said copy during the occurrence of a second predetermined event.

6. (*Original*) Process according to claim 5, wherein reinitialization of said copy takes place during a partial backup of the storage unit.

7. (*Currently amended*) Process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 6~~, comprising the stages that consist in:

[[- ]] creating a second table (M2), each element of which corresponds to one group of sectors of the storage unit;

[[- ]] initializing said first table;

[[- ]] during a first modification of one sector of a group of sectors after said initialization, modifying the element of the second table corresponding to this group of sectors;

[[-]] not modifying an element of the second table during a modification of one sector of a group of sectors that corresponds to it if the element has already been modified; and

[[-]] reinitializing said second table during the occurrence of said first predetermined event.

8. (*Original*) Process according to claim 7, wherein the creation and initialization of said second table takes place during the formatting of the storage unit.

9. (*Currently amended*) Process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 7 ~~and 8~~, wherein the reinitialization of said second table takes place during a complete backup of the storage unit.

10. (*Currently amended*) Process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 7 ~~and 8~~, wherein reinitialization of said second table takes place during an incremental backup of the storage unit.

11. (*Currently amended*) Process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 7 ~~to 10~~, comprising the stage consisting in creating and keeping a copy (T2) of said second table, and in reinitializing said copy during the occurrence of a second predetermined event.

12. (*Original*) Process according to claim 11, wherein the reinitialization of said copy takes place during a partial backup of the storage unit.

**13.** (*Currently amended*) Process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 12~~, wherein said first table is created on said storage unit.

**14.** (*Currently amended*) Process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 7 ~~to 13~~, wherein said second table is created in the read-write memory in the controller of said storage unit.

**15.** (*Currently amended*) Process for complete or incremental backup of a digital storage unit [[(2)]] divided into sectors, wherein the storage unit is managed by a process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 14~~, ~~and wherein it comprises the stages consisting in~~ comprising the steps of:

[[- ]] saving the indicated sectors as modified in said first table one after the other; and

[[- ]] reinitializing as the elements of said first table correspond to the saved sectors.

**16.** (*Currently amended*) Process for partial backup of a digital storage unit [[(2)]] divided into sectors, wherein the storage unit is managed by a process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 5, ~~6, 11 and 12, and wherein it comprises the stages consisting in~~ further comprising the steps of:

[[- ]] saving the indicated sectors as modified in said first table one after the other; and

[[- ]] reinitializing as the elements of the copy of said first table correspond to the saved sectors.

**17.** (*Currently amended*) Controller [[(4)]] of the digital storage unit divided into sectors, wherein it is arranged to implement a process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 16~~.